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THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1938

SECTION A.

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area 47.270 acres. Population (Registrar General's estimate) 10,950.
No. of inhabited houses 3,497. Rateable Value £34,925.
Sum represented by a penny rate £130 10s. 0d.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The occupation of the majority of the inhabitants still remains agricultural, but there is a slight increase in the number of persons working in factories. No great amount of unemployment exists.

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics of the year.

		Total.	M.	F.		
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate,	136	66	70	140	Live Birth Rate per 1000, 12.7. England & Wales, 15.1.
	Illegitimate,	4	2	2		
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate,	4	2	2	4	Rate per 1000 population, 0.36. England & Wales, 0.60.
	Illegitimate,	0	0	0		Rate per 1000 total Births, 27.7.
DEATHS.	Male,	84			164	Death Rate Gross 14.9. England & Wales, 11.6.
	Female,	80				

Death Rate corrected to make it comparable with England and Wales ... 10.57.

(A) Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth { from sepis ... 0; other causes ... 0 } Rate per 1000 total births 0

Total 0

(B) Deaths of infants under one year of age. Legitimate 3. Illegitimate 0.
All infants per 1000 live births, 21.4. England and Wales, 53.
Legitimate infants per 1000 Legitimate live births, 22.0.
Illegitimate infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births, 0.

(C) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 26
(D) „ „ Measles (all ages) 0
(E) „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) 0
(F) „ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... 0

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services.

A. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—part time.

Sanitary Inspector—one—whole time. Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute. Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

One full time Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

B. Laboratory Facilities. No change.

C. Ambulance Facilities.

There is no change in these arrangements. The ambulance, stationed at Sudbury and staffed by the Red Cross Detachments of Sudbury and Melford, has proved itself to be extremely helpful, and is adequately serving the district.

D. Nursing in the Home.

All parishes are now served by District Nurses, who are also midwives.

There are no arrangements for nursing infectious cases.

E. Clinics and Treatment Centres.

None maintained by Local Authority.

No change in those maintained by County Council.

F. Hospitals.

None maintained by Local Authority.

No change in arrangements for the admission of infectious diseases to Colchester Isolation Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions in the Area.

WATER.

Water is still obtained over the greater part of the area from scattered wells. Chemical analysis of samples of water from these wells is done as required.

WORKS AT PRESENT IN HAND.

Central Area Scheme.

Comprising the Parishes of Gt. Cornard, Newton, Assington, Gt. Waldingfield, Acton and Long Melford, about 14 Miles of Mains have been laid for this Scheme. Pump House is practically complete, and Water Tower is approaching completion.

Approximately 6 Miles of Mains are required to complete this scheme and are included in the Contract.

Bures St. Mary Scheme.

In this parish, Mains have been laid and the Water Supply should be available quite early in 1939.

Water is being purchased in bulk for this supply from the Lexden & Winstree R.D.C. from their Water Works adjoining Bures Hamlet.

Southern Area Scheme.

A Boring has been completed and Tenders obtained for a piped supply for the parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland.

Northern Area Scheme.

A Boring is in operation for this Scheme, which is intended to supply the parishes of Lawshall, Hartest, Shimpling, Stanstead, Boxted and Alpheton.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No change during the year.

When the piped supply of water is available to the big villages, the need for sewage disposal schemes is likely to become acute.

This is particularly so in Long Melford, Bures, Great Cornard and Nayland.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number in district at end of year:

(1) Privies 1141. (2) Pail Closets 1700. (3) W.C.'s. 362.

(4) No. of privies converted to pail closets 14.

(5) No. of privies, pail and earth closets converted to water-carriage system during year o.

The closets on the water carriage are, except in Glemsford, all on private property, and the sewerage is dealt with on the owners premises.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

No change during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Tabulated Annual Summary for year ending Dec. 31st, 1938.

	Acton.	Alpheton.	Assington.	Boxted.	Bures St. Mary.	Chilton.	Great Cornard.	Little Cornard.	Glemsford.	Hartest.	Lawshall.	Leavenheath.	Melford.	Nayland with Wissington.	Newton.	Shimpling.	Somerton.	Stoke-by-Nayland.	Stanstead.	Gt. Waldingfield.	Lt. Waldingfield.	Total.
Complaints received	1	1	1	...	5	2	6	2	8	8	2	...	24	6	...	...	1	2	3	2	2	76
Nuisances detected ...	4	4	6	...	7	4	20	10	17	9	5	2	46	9	4	2	1	8	5	1	4	168
Nuisances abated by Statutory Notice served	..	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	..	...	.	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	11
Nuisances abated without notice served	4	4	6	...	7	2	18	10	17	9	5	2	43	9	4	2	1	8	5	1	...	157
Nuisances being dealt with ..	3	...	5	...	2	2	5	4	8	5	1	...	22	3	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	64
Offensive accumulations removed ..	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	2	2	1	...	8	1	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	21
Houses newly erected	7	9	8	...	1	2	23	..	17	9	16	12	18	3	7	6	...	17	12	9	3	179
Houses in course of erection ..	...		...	...	...	...	6	1	1	...	..	...	22	12	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	44
Houses disinfected	1	...	2	...	5	1	4	...	5	1	1	1	6	3	3	...	..	...	...	1	3	37
Filthy houses cleansed	3	...	...	...	...	1	.	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	9
Houses overcrowded (abated) ..	1	1	5	...	1	1	4	...	3	2	3	4	6	6	1	1	...	8	1	1	1	50
Schools inspected	1	...	1	...	1	..	1	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	17
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....
Wells (new)	1	1	1	..	1	...	4	...	...	1	2	3	2	1	1	..	1	2	1	1	...	23
Wells (cleaned out, deepened, etc.) ..	1	...	1	...	1	..	2	...	...	1	...	...	..	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	10
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	2	1	...	1	...	10	...	6	...	1	1	7	6	...	...	1	3	...	...	4	43
Closets (new)	7	9	8	...	1	2	23	...	17	9	16	12	18	3	7	6	...	17	12	9	3	179
Privies (repaired)	2	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	2	...	...	..	2	1	...	...	...	2	4	...	...	14
Privies (converted into pail closets)..	2	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	..	1	2	4	...	...	14
Sewers (repaired, relaid, etc.) ...	...	...	..	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7
Sink pipes disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	7
Drains (new)	1	...	...	...	1	2	14	1	...	...	4	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	26
Drains (improved)	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	14
Drains tested with water	1	...	...	...	1	2	14	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	..	...	1	26
Slaughter Houses inspected ...	...	..	...	...	1	.	1	...	3	2	1	...	3	4	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	21
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected ..	4	1	5	1	3	2	3	1	6	5	2	2	10	5	3	2	...	4	3	5	2	69
Dairies and Cowsheds repaired, etc. .	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	..	...	1	...	...	1	9
Animals improperly kept, removed ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	5	2	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	20
Factories inspected	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	1	6	3	1	...	12	3	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	45
Outworkers visited	. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Outworkers' lists received ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of inspections and visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1680
Letters sent out	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	709
House to-house inspection ..	10	12	93	15	40	20	40	17	45	25	20	15	100	30	10	12	...	30	25	15	...	574

GEO. F. RAMPLING, M.S.I.A., *Sanitary Inspector.*

SHOPS ACT 1934.

No action taken under this Act.

CAMPING SITES.

No of sites in area used during year o.

,, ,, ,, licensed ,, ,, o.

Estimated number of campers during year o.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action taken.

SWIMMING BATHS.

None in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) Number of houses found to be infested :—

(a) Council Houses ... 0

(b) Other Houses ... 9

(2) Number of houses disinfected 9.

(3) Method employed for disinfecting.

Cimex, or Sulphur Dioxide Gas, periodic treatment, fumigation done at intervals of three weeks.

(4) Methods employed for protecting Council Houses from infestation.

Furniture contained in buildings, the subject of "Clearance or Demolition Orders," is treated prior to removal to Council Houses.

(5) Disinfestation is done by Local Authority.

(6) Measures taken by way of supervision and education of tenants to prevent reinfestation of houses.

Instruction and inspection by Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

There has been no change in the sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the area. In two schools the water has to be carried from wells on private premises, and in one the water is fetched from a public well.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

Only one school was closed during the year (Nayland) when there was Acute Poliomyelitis in the district. This was done as a precautionary measure, and the school was kept closed for 18 days.

Non-Notifiable Diseases associated with Schools.

CHICKEN POX.

Glemsford had a sharp epidemic in December but this was checked by the school holiday. Nayland also had a few cases in June and July.

GERMAN MEASLES.

Nayland had a large number of cases in January, February, and March, and a few cases occurred in the adjoining village of Stoke-by-Nayland.

SECTION D.

Unfit Houses.

1. INSPECTION

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	574
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	574
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...	156
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	156
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	156
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	180

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local Authority or their officers	46

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	50
(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By Owners	50
(b) By local Authority in default of Owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit : –	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	24
(2) Number demolished	11

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

In connection with the above Act, a complete survey of all working class houses within the district was made, and all habitable rooms measured and recorded. This was done by employing special enumerators.

A.	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	23
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	23
	(3) Number of persons „ „	117
B.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year ...	3
C.	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	45
	(2) Number of persons concerned	283
D.	Houses which have become overcrowded after relief of overcrowding ...	0

CLEARANCE ORDERS.

Thirty-two Clearance Orders, covering 106 houses, were submitted to the Ministry for confirmation. Thirty of these were confirmed, dealing with 99 houses.

New housing accommodation has been provided by the Council to cover the persons displaced. In the case of the last two Clearance Orders, undertakings were given for re-conditioning. In one case the repairs are completed, and one is being done.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

No. on Register	51
Number of Inspections of Premises ...	355
„ Contraventions found ...	8
„ „ remedied ...	8

COW KEEPERS (other than retail purveyors).

No. on Register 22
Number of Inspections of Premises ... 74
„ Contraventions found ... 10
(including those requiring cleansing and structural alterations).
Number of Contraventions remedied ... 7
„ found to require cleansing ... 9
„ „ „ structural alterations 8

Examination of samples is done by the County Council.
Number of Bacteriological samples taken 5

MEAT.

There is no Public Slaughter House.
Private Slaughter Houses,

	In Jan.	In Dec.
No. Registered	22	22
Number Licenced... ...	1	1

Number of Inspections of Premises ... 400
„ „ at time of Slaughter 326

The mutual insurance run by the Butchers' Association against meat being condemned is working well, so that meat is surrendered if it is in any way of doubtful quality.

MEAT INSPECTION, Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1300	225	106	7600	12670
Number inspected...	430	80	46	180	4300
ALL DISEASES (except T.B) Whole carcases condemned ...	3	—	1	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	5	—	—	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2.8	6 25	2.07	—	0.37
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. Whole carcases condemned.	7	6	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	10	5	—	—	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	3.9	13.75	—	—	0.03

ADULTERATION.

Inspection under the Food and Drugs Act, 1928, is done by the County Council.

CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is also done by the County Council.

NUTRITION.

No special steps have been taken to instruct the inhabitants of the area.

SHELL FISH.

There are no beds in the area.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 23 cases notified. They were scattered all over the district, and occurred widely separated as to time, and were extremely difficult to trace.
As an example, Cornard had 3 families infected in May and June and a sporadic case in December.

Leavenheath had 3 cases in one family in December, probably the result of infection by a case discharged from hospital with a very slight discharge from an ear.

In Assington a whole family had the disease which could not be traced.

DIPHTHERIA.

One case only in an adult. This could not be traced.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Two cases notified, one in Nayland and one in Melford.

One of these was an ordinary sporadic case such as notified each year. The other may have had some connection with a epidemic near, but it is very doubtful.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1938.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever	23	12	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	2	2	...
Pneumonia	5	...	...
Ophthalmia	1	...	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	1

AGE OF INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases.	Under year.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	2	...	1	...	10	8	1	1	...	...	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	. .	1	...	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action taken under either Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172 Public Health Act, 1936.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
1—	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—	1	...	...	..	...	...	..	...
15—	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—	...	2	1	1	2	...	1	...
35—	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
45—	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	3	5	2	1	4	0	2	1
	8		3		4		3	

R. W. RIX, M.O.H.